

1. Write a case definition for this outbreak. (5 points)

Suggested Answer

A person who developed gastroenteritis (nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea) within 72 hours of the retirement reception.

2. Calculate the attack rate for persons eating the taco dip. Round to the nearest percentage. Please show your work. (3 points)

Suggested Answer

$$112 / 120 = 93\%$$

3. Calculate the relative risk for the exposure to taco dip and illness. Round answer to the nearest tenth. Please show your work. (5 points)

Suggested Answer

$$(112/120) / (15/92) = 0.933/0.163 = 5.7$$

4. Which of the following agents most likely caused this outbreak. Briefly describe your answer. (5 points)

Suggested Answer

Norwalk virus/Norwalk-like virus. The points may include incubation period, symptoms, and average duration of illness.

The average incubation period and the duration of symptoms for this outbreak fits in the range provided by the table. The symptoms for this outbreak also match. The incubation period rules out staph food poisoning, *C. perfringens*, and *E. coli* O157:H7. The duration of symptoms and relative absence of vomiting rules out *Salmonella*.

5. An epidemic curve (2 points)

Suggested Answer

- A. graphically displays the scope of an outbreak
- B. shows the number of people affected by an outbreak
- C. shows the course of the outbreak over time
- D. all the above
- E. A and B

6. Please match the following words with the most correct definition.

Suggested Answers

Incidence = A measure of the frequency of a new injury or case of illness in a population. (2 points)

Pandemic = The occurrence of more than the expected number of cases of a particular disease, chronic condition, or injury occurring over a very wide area (several countries or continents). (2 points)

Median = The middle value in a set of numbers (or the average of two middle numbers) above and below which lie an equal number of values. (2 points)

Endemic = The occurrence of the expected number of cases of a particular type of disease, chronic condition, or injury in a given area, or among a specific group of people, over a particular period of time. (2 points)